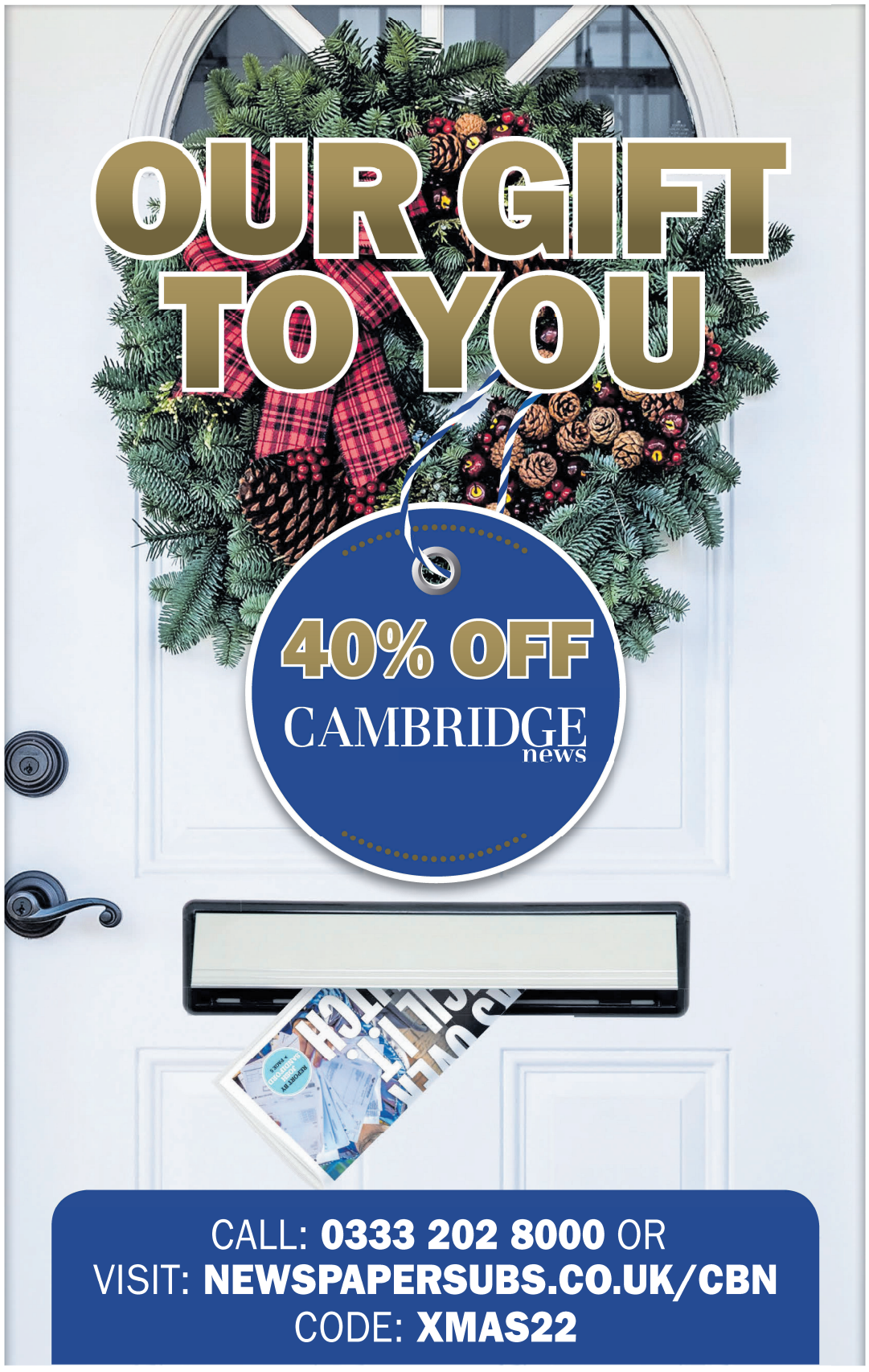
NOSTALGIA

Christmas carries on despite the gloom of blackout and Santa struggles with demand

***MIKE PETTY** AND **JAMES MILNER** LOOK THROUGH THE **CAMBRIDGE NEWS** ARCHIVES AT SOME OF THE STORIES WE REPORTED ON THIS DAY IN THE PAST*



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Santa finds children hard to please - 1986

FATHER Christmas will have his work cut out to satisfy the child of 1986. Gone are the days when a simple doll or toy gun would do.

When asked, Lynsey Bullivant wanted a toy pound puppy because they look so sad, Claire Boydell of St Ives hoped for a trip to watch ice-skaters, Torvill and Dean, in action, and Richard Burton of Willingham wanted a cup win for Cambridge United.

Caroline Robinson of Cambridge wrote to Santa: "I am trying to be good. I know you were in my chimney pot because you kicked some soot down."

Father Christmas faces ever growing list of demands

Festive wishes from Roy Rogers - 1954

ABOUT 400 youngsters crowded into the Rex Cinema, Cambridge, to enjoy a special party for members of the Roy Rogers Club.

After seeing a rip-roaring six-shooting picture of cowboys and their horses, the delighted youngsters raced into the ballroom for the grand party.

Everyone received a special Christmas letter from their cowboy hero:

"Howdy boys and girls. It sure is swell to send you personal greetings from Dale, Trigger, Bullet and the whole gang. Wishing you wagon loads of fun and happy trails in the coming year."

The letter was signed by Roy and his "four-legged friend" Trigger

Mayor visits telephone exchange in the 1970s

A reason not to call your family - 1951

PLEASE give your phone a rest on Christmas Day unless a call is really essential – and allow many Cambridge exchange operators to have their Christmas dinners at home in peace.

The telephone manager, Mr W.E. Dance, has made special staffing arrangements which means there will be 30 operators at the switchboard.

On other days, there are 130 day and 80 night operators at the controls. The normal daily number of calls dealt with is about 11,000 (quite apart from dialled calls).

For those who still intend to telephone on Christmas Day, he offers this gentle reminder: "Sorry but we can give you no concession charges between 6pm and 10.30pm on those days."

Police force distributes gifts to the poor - 1924

THE policeman in his time plays many

Lost child safe in the hands of police - 1909

PEOPLE out shopping in Cambridge witness the curious site of a six-foot-two policeman walking toward the police station with a diminutive child toddling along by his side.

Of course, the child was lost, but he seemed utterly unconcerned. This was not the first time this little mite had landed safe in the hands of a policeman.

He had been often brought into the town by older boys who ultimately left him to his own devices. Boys will be boys but this is a dangerous game to play.

Policeman and lost boy